SYSTEM AND METHOD OF

SEARCHING FOR IMAGE DATA IN A STORAGE MEDIUM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method of searching for composite images in a database system is performed on a code word basis. To enable the search, the database stores facial codes which define a respective plurality of composite images. Each facial code includes element codes which define different facial features and which when combined cause a face having corresponding characteristics to be generated for display. To enable display of the composite images, digital image files corresponding to each facial feature is stored in memory along with a table which relates the files to corresponding element codes. When a facial code is retrieved from the database, the element codes in the facial code are linked to the digital files using the table and the resulting composite image is displayed. By storing facial codes in the database instead of the images themselves, the system and method advantageously reduce the amount of storage required for image searching compared with other systems which have been proposed.